

REMARKS

Claims 3, 11 and 13-27 remain pending in the application.

Allowability of Claims 3 and 11

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3 and 11 are **allowed**.

Claim 1, 9, 10 and 12 over Fransioli in view of Alperovich

In the Office Action, claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over WO 01/86918 to Fransioli ("Fransioli") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,014 to Alperovich et al. ("Alperovich").

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 are canceled herein, thereby mooting the rejection. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-8 and 10 over Fransioli in view of Alperovich and Schaphorst

Claims 2, 4-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Fransioli in view of Alperovich, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,767,795 to Schaphorst ("Schaphorst").

Claims 2, 4-8 and 10 are canceled herein, thereby mooting the rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection now be withdrawn.

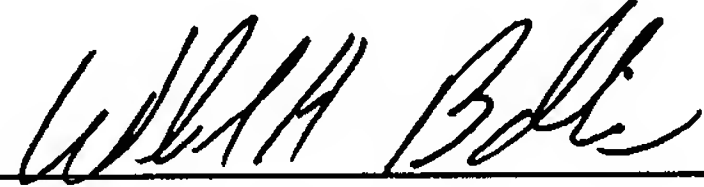
New Claims 13-27

New independent claims 13 and 20 are based on **allowable** subject matter drawn from claims 3 and 11, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 13 and 20 (as well as dependent claims 14-19 and 21-27) are patentable for the reasons that claims 3 and 11 are patentable.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



William H. Bollman
Reg. No.: 36,457
Tel. (202) 261-1020
Fax. (202) 887-0336

MANELLI DENISON & SELTER PLLC

2000 M Street, N.W. 7th Floor
Washington D.C. 20036-3307